

**Village of Peninsula
Special Council Meeting
May 22, 2018**

Call to Order:

Mayor Mayer: Let's start this meeting. It is now 4:06, Tuesday, May 22 for a special Council meeting.

Roll Call:

Michael J. Kaplan, present

Michael Matusz, present

Mary Booth, present

Dee Holody, present

Christopher Weigand, present

Dan Schneider, present

Mayor Mayer: The purpose of the Waste Water Project Feasibility Discussion with Village Council and representatives from Ohio EPA, Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, Summit County Division of Environmental Health, and Stantec Consulting Services. Before we get started, I would like to say this is a fact-finding meeting that will be held between the Council members and our guests that have come tonight. As you notice on our agenda, we are not going to open this up to the public. I believe once information that is found tonight, if there is another meeting needed, we'll go ahead and set that up for a further date. I guess I'd like to start with some comments to everybody. I think we know why everybody's here. The Ohio EPA -- I want to make it clear that I do know Mr. Stoll. He is a friend of somebody that I know and that is the only personal relationship I have with him. I do not have any other relationship that would cause a conflict or problem in any questions or anything that will be talked about tonight. With Mr. Weant, I have known Mr. Weant since we started this project and I met him through Russ Pry's office and that's the only contact I've ever had with Mike Weant, is basically on a professional level. The Health Department, I haven't had any contact and Stantec Consulting, again, I have had no relationship with them at all for anything I've done in the past or anything like that. I think we all know these services are here tonight -- let me rephrase that and start that over again. We all know what their goal is. Their goal is to keep the river clean, to keep the water clean, to keep public health, public safety, and I don't think we need to question them on what their role is. We know what their role is and what their titles are. I'm going to start -- I'll waive to take a turn -- we're going to go across Council and allow for the first moment, let's just give everybody five minutes to ask questions -- does that seem fair to start with, Council?

Mr. Matusz: Yeah, sounds good.

Mayor Mayer: I don't think tonight is supposed to be a debate, we are asking questions for facts to educate not only the Council but to educate the public. Mr. Kaplan, would you like to start?

Mr. Kaplan: Sure, I'll start. First, thank you everyone. I've got a very loud voice so but if you can't hear at some point, please raise your hand and we'll figure out something. There are a couple of faces in the corner. If I could just begin by asking each of our invited guests to just stand up and identify themselves by name, agency, and title so everybody knows because I look out and there are people I know and some people I don't know so if we could just start right here and then I just have a few questions.

Ynes Arocho: I am the Environmental Specialist assigned to Summit County, I work for the Ohio EPA.

Dean Stoll: I am with the Ohio EPA. I am a supervisor in the Division of Surface Water at the Northeast District Office in Twinsburg.

Mike Weant: I am the Director of Sanitary Sewer Services for the County, the department is under the direction of executive Ilene Shapiro.

Gary Silcott: I am with Stantec Consulting, the consultants the Village selected to study the possibility of putting a sewer system in and community design.

Tonia Burford: I am the Environmental Health Director for Summit County and Public Health. I work under the direction of Donna Skoda, our Health Commissioner and she will be joining us.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you for joining us. By way of disclosure, I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting with Mike Matusz and Mr. Stoll and Mr. Weant and four representatives of Summit County Public Health to discuss these projects. Other than that, I have no involvement with them past or present. Mr. Stoll, let me start with you. Let me start with a letter that your agency sent the Village in September – September 5, 2017. That letter was written – why don't you tell us why that letter was written.

Mr. Stoll: This is a letter from our office signed by Kurt Princic, the Chief of the Northeast District office of the Ohio EPA, and it was a letter to the Mayor and Council and it was our recommendation that if the Village wants to pursue sanitary sewers and a waste water treatment plant or sanitary sewers and tying that into a regional facility that the project be turned over to Mike Weant and his staff at the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services.

Mr. Kaplan: That letter was not requested by the Village or anyone on behalf of the Village, that was in a – having met with the Village and having thought about the issues, offering the advice of the agency being assigned by your supervisor.

Mr. Stoll: We had been to a few meetings here with Mayor and Council and that drove us to draft this letter and have Kurt sign it. We thought it was the best course of action for the Village.

Mr. Kaplan: We've all heard our Mayor say that we all assume we're all on the same page wanting to have good clean water and there are various solutions. Kind of going around the table – septic systems are legal and acceptable according to the EPA and I'll also ask the Health Department the same question.

Mr. Stoll: I think it's important to know who regulates what.

Mr. Kaplan: Fair.

Mr. Stoll: The County Health Department regulates 1, 2, 3-family residential dwellings that are tied into a septic system. Four families or more or if it's a commercial business, it's regulated by the Ohio EPA.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. Let me ask you the question, we agree that properly operating septic systems are legal, permitted, and statutorily allowed in the State of Ohio.

Ms. Burford: That's correct.

Mr. Kaplan: In that September 5 letter, you opined – the middle of the second page – that the cost per month to a resident based on your analysis would be in excess of \$200 per month, per household, is that fair?

Mr. Stoll: Yeah, that's written in the letter.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. And you also recommended against an MBR system, is that true – let me put that a different way. You noted at the bottom of the front page and top of the second page, the problems with flow and the problems with operating the system within the Village of Peninsula because of our seasonal traffic.

Mr. Stoll: Yeah, Membrane Bio Reactors have their place but there are disadvantages with that type of system and there are advantages.

Mr. Kaplan: Advantages include that it's a superior product.

Mr. Stoll: Well, let me start here. There are common waste water treatment plant systems out there, like extended aeration, oxidation ditches that any wastewater treatment plant operator can run. Membrane Bio Reactors are not as common so most waste water treatment operators do not have experience running those systems so that was one of our concerns. Also we've been told that the energy costs are significant, they require a lot of power, so that's another thing to take into consideration. They are good – they're great when you've got a steady flow, when you see the same flow all the time, MBR's work great but when the flow is varied, especially when too high due to wet-weather events, you can have problems with those systems.

Mr. Kaplan: Maintenance tends to be extensive and more likely?

Mr. Stoll: I would expect there is more maintenance on the MBR system than other types.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Weant, when we met with you –

Mayor Mayer: Mike, that's how fast five minutes goes.

Mr. Kaplan: That's fine. I'll wait until my next turn.

Mayor Mayer: I'm just wondering, if it's going to go – would everyone like it to go further than five minutes?

Ms. Holody: No, let's just keep it at five.

Mayor Mayer: Mr. Matusz.

Mr. Matusz: I was – the EPA is working with businesses and the businesses are working with the EPA as well to be compliant and the systems are working well?

Mr. Stoll: Yes, we are working with -- we haven't been around to every business. The ones we have been involved with and inspected, we are working with those businesses to come into compliance. Some of them already are in compliance. Others just need some upgrades.

Mr. Matusz: Everybody is working with you, right?

Mr. Stoll: Everybody has been, for the most part, cooperative.

Mr. Matusz: Are you coming down with findings and orders on Peninsula?

Mr. Stoll: No, not at this time, no.

Mr. Matusz: Are you looking to do that – like businesses not being compliant or not working with you?

Mr. Stoll: No. What would spur that would be if we got a complaint from Summit County Health Department about unsanitary conditions. That's normally how findings and orders happen in this type of situation.

Mr. Matusz: Okay.

Mr. Stoll: So, normally the Health Department does sanitary checks and find bacteria levels from rivers, they submit it to the Ohio EPA and they investigate and issue findings and orders to address the unsanitary conditions.

Mr. Matusz: Okay. For the Health Department – I'm sorry, I didn't hear your name.

Ms. Burford: Tonia.

Mr. Matusz: Tonia, I was just wondering, for the Health Department, are you looking for findings and orders with the residents?

Ms. Burford: It is complaint driven so at this time you don't have the level of complaints in Peninsula. Doesn't mean it's not there, it's just that we are complaint driven so in order for sampling, it has to be driven by a reason. Peninsula is not effaced to storm water communities with how much people are familiar with different types of storm water but some municipalities are required to test their storm water through OEPA; Peninsula is not one of them because of its

size. Summit County Public Health – there are lots of municipalities in the County that contract with Summit County Public Health to do their storm water testing but because of the size of Peninsula, that's not monitored on a regular basis so we're back to complaint basis. So we've been requested to look at the feasibility of that and it's something that is on the table but undertaking something like sampling, you have to know what you're doing before you're going in. You have to know where the outfalls are and you have to know where the complaints are coming from. So I would say at this point, we're at the infancy of that – before we would make a decision on that.

Mr. Matusz: Has anyone complained to try to get you to test the water?

Ms. Burford: Yes, we've had some complaints that have come in from various residents of Peninsula and those are normally associated with an address so we'll go out and assess the functionality of the septic system. Just because there's a complaint doesn't mean it's not –

Mr. Matusz: Sure. Septic systems are acceptable and you can enforce it if the Village decided to go in that direction, you could work with the Village to get people to be compliant with their septic systems?

Ms. Burford: To some degree. A lot of the systems in Peninsula are older and some have been replaced with replacement systems or what we call NPDES systems, many of you may have those at your house now. If you get a small lot where there isn't a lot of room to put a septic system in, then an NPDES discharging system is often the only option we're left with and those can be installed under permit from the Health Department.

Mr. Matusz: Okay. So there is a possibility to fix their systems.

Ms. Burford: It's possible but as a community, you all need to make a decision.

Mr. Matusz: Sure.

Ms. Burford: Donna can speak to this as well about the direction you'd like to take.

Mayor Mayer: That's five minutes but go ahead and answer the question.

Ms. Skoda: As a community, the Health District will support you in any possible way we can but it depends on what you want as a community. I can tell you the sewers will probably bring growth and we have some jurisdictions that do not want development and there is no development, no sewer plans, because they don't want the growth and development that comes with it. Now, if you're thinking of the Norton situation where we did declare a public health nuisance and they're replacing sewers, that was a very different situation. But if you ask any public health person what the best solution ultimately is, it's the sewer because it's a done deal, it's a permanent solution but it doesn't mean it's right for this community. That's a personal choice you have to decide based on evidence and data and information and then you have to try to move forward. We're glad to help you in any way we possibly can in the law that would allow us

and the EPA and with Mike to work collaboratively but for us to come in and say we're going to issue orders because you have 2-family systems isn't how we work plus the sewage rules have changed and we're under the State's rules for the operation and maintenance permits so some of you may have been inspected or had a bill come in the mail and you've paid that, hopefully, because we're going to be out looking at your system so that was the idea to improve the infrastructure. So I just want to be clear, this isn't necessarily our decision as to make you do, it's really as a community, it should be meetings like this and folks talking about it and deciding what the data tells you.

Mayor Mayer: Thank you. Does everybody understand when we use the term, what findings are orders means? I know there's going to be -- we've been doing this for a while now and there are terms that I actually asked that same question and I had no idea when the EPA had asked me about findings and orders and I didn't know what the question was. It's basically if they find a problem, they order us to fix it. It's basically that simple. If they find enough problems and they order us to fix it and we don't fix it, then that's when all this can really turn around and a community can get in trouble. But at the time I was asked that -- I just wanted to explain that. Mary.

Ms. Booth: I'll stick with the Health Department, when you say we're in our infancy, how would you suggest we get to the bottom of all this information? Would we make a complaint against every small lot in the district so you can test it so we can know for sure whether we're compliant or not because otherwise, we're just guessing.

Ms. Skoda: I think where we're at right now, we would like to know what area you're actually talking about.

Ms. Booth: Well, we're talking about the waste water district -- small lot district that we've identified as potential for our sewer --

Ms. Skoda: If we get those addresses, we can check our records and our data so we can see what we have.

Ms. Booth: So that would be 152 sites we would ask you to check.

Ms. Skoda: That's fine. We'd have to look at the operation maintenance State rules to decide what we can do. We certainly don't want to offend folks and go back on their property and inspect if we've already been there and we know that it's good or whatever we might know about that property.

Ms. Burford: Some of these systems are old and some are under service contracts already. They had their inspection already, a contractor comes out and looks.

Ms. Skoda: We're supposed to get those but that's one big change in the rules, we don't have to do it, you guys can hire someone to do it and we don't necessarily know what's going on in that house and if they're having an independent contractor do it. If we could get that list of addresses in that district

you're referring to, we would be glad to look at that and bring back some information to you.

Ms. Booth: Okay.

Mr. Kaplan: Just so you know, I've asked for that information to be sent in.

Ms. Holody: We have submitted that list.

Mr. Kaplan: She asked for all the addresses within the waste water district, for them to be sent over.

Ms. Holody: They have been sent to them.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay.

Ms. Booth: Because otherwise, there are some people that say we don't have a problem, some people say we have a horrible problem – until we get to the bottom of our problem. All right, then I guess that's something we'll need to do. Back to the letter from the EPA from back in September, I'd like to talk about the future, we understand that over the next couple years, the discharge requirements are going to be made more stringent and that it would require something as intense as an MBR. That if we put in a traditional system that we would be looking at upgrades over the next few years and our opinion, the committee's opinion, is that we should deal with that now and do it all at once at the beginning and not be looking at upgrades and looking for more money in a couple of years when they're raising the standards on our discharge, could you address that?

Mr. Stoll: Well, that statement's not accurate. There are many other options to meet the current or future limits with outside of the MBR.

Ms. Booth: Okay.

Mr. Stoll: MBR is just another activated sludge system which does potentially the same thing as every other activated sludge system does. It reduces carbon and converts ammonia to nitrates and nitrites. Whether you use a sledge batch reactor, aeration tanks, oxidation ditches, or MBRs, they're all doing the same thing. The MBR does it in a little different way that you don't need clarifiers to settle out the solids because the solids can't fit through the pore spaces in the membranes.

Ms. Booth: Okay. Would you recommend a different system, then? Or are you just recommending standard aeration?

Mr. Stoll: The MBR has nothing wrong with it, but it would not be my first choice. If I was going to plan it, I would not stick with that.

Ms. Booth: Do you agree that the discharge standards are going to be increased over the next few years?

Mr. Stoll: Well, I don't see them being relaxed, but I don't know that there's anything coming down the road that any other system wouldn't be able to handle.

Ms. Booth: Okay. In your letter you said that if we tied into a regional facility you thought we should go with the County and I think we've all been at enough of these meetings that we are pretty confident that the County has already indicated that us tying into a regional facility is not feasible and that it's not what the County would want and therefore not what we would want either so is there some reason that you addressed only that in your letter?

Mr. Stoll: I think, in either direction you go, building a collection system and a plant or tying into a regional facility, in either scenario, we recommend that you let Mr. Weant and his shop oversee the project.

Ms. Booth: And why would that be?

Mr. Stoll: Because that's what they do for a living. Mike's group installs sewers, design sewers, and maintains sewers and pump stations. They build waste water treatment plants, they run waste water treatment plants – that is basically what Mike and his staff do all day and every day.

Ms. Booth: Okay.

Mr. Stoll: They have experience, they know the process, they know what systems are good, they know what systems are not as good, they know how to get permits from us –

Ms. Booth: So that would just be a matter of –

Mr. Stoll: They have the experience, it's not an easy undertaking –

Ms. Booth: So that would be a matter of your preference of the County over our engineer Stantec, is that what it boils down to?

Mr. Stoll: No, it's nothing against Stantec or whatever engineer the County would use, it's just that the County's taking the lead and they have experience with these projects. They know the process, they know the pitfalls, and it would just be more efficient, there would be a greater chance of success with Mike and his shop.

Ms. Booth: Okay.

Mayor Mayer: Okay, thank you. As I usually, when I'm talking to you guys -- I'm just going to say it – these are questions that people have heard me ask -- and Mr. Stoll, does Peninsula have to put in a sewer system?

Mr. Stoll: No. Just, one thing I do want to say is, we would be supportive if you want to.

Mayor Mayer: Yes, you would, I understand.

Mr. Stoll: Part of it is, I parked right out here on the road, just maybe a hundred feet from the building, and walking down the sidewalk I can smell the raw sewage in the sewer so we all know there are some issues.

Mayor Mayer: There is.

Mr. Stoll: I'm supportive of this project.

Mayor Mayer: You're supportive of us cleaning up our drains, cleaning up our environment and being better stewards of our community to get rid of our pollution whatever avenue we take.

Mr. Stoll: Yes.

Mayor Mayer: If we do not put in this sewer system, are you going to order us to put in a sewer system at this time?

Mr. Stoll: No, not at this time.

Mayor Mayer: Do you see in the near future or even in the far future, if we work with the Health Department and get our community to start taking care of their septic systems better, would you see a need to step in and make us put in a system?

Mr. Stoll: No.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. Health Department, basically the same question, do you feel at this time, Peninsula should put in an order to put in a sewer system?

Ms. Skoda: I don't know if you have the data. We do not have enough complaints to validate that.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. So, the Village at this time, the residents at this time, if they would not want a sewer system and they apply for new septic systems and again, become better stewards of the systems, they – you don't see a need at this time to order Peninsula to have to -- I guess you would be ordering the EPA to come to us, is that how it would work?

Ms. Skoda: I'll let Tonia answer that.

Ms. Burford: It is. I mean, we routinely approve permits for installations of NPDES systems mostly, in this area so if a homeowner comes to us and says, I have a failing septic system I need a new one, we're going to help them get a permit and get them on their way so yes, we're committed to helping residents clean up their sewage issues.

Mayor Mayer: And I do know you had just sent us recent information that – I can't say all these addresses were in the immediate sewer district but you – we have had, I think it was 17 residents that have put in new sewer systems in the last five years.

Ms. Burford: Correct. Most of those are NPDES systems.

Mayor Mayer: So, by putting in those better systems we're getting ahead of what we're trying to do or trying to stay ahead of polluting the ground.

Ms. Burford: They have their limitations as well so I guess with an NPDES system, if it meets requirements it can work effectively which is why they are allowed to be installed under the general permit.

Mayor Mayer: So if everybody in this town did their due diligence and put in a good system, we're fine.

Ms. Burford: I mean, you do still have the issue of having very small lots in large concentration of septic systems.

Ms. Skoda: And you have some businesses here, that if I'm correct, they need some improvements. Expensive improvements.

Mayor Mayer: Yes.

_____: With limitations on expansion.

Ms. Burford: So those are considerations, I mean you can go about this piecemeal or you can think about a sanitary sewer solution and as we have expressed, that is a Village decision.

Ms. Skoda: Again, with that will come development. Bath does not want development so there is no sewer plant, they don't want it and they'll tell you that publicly.

Mayor Mayer: And that is a discussion we're afraid of, too.

Ms. Skoda: I think you have to have it though, because for God's sake, don't have people spend a lot of money and then you're going to put sewers in. Ya know, you have to have that philosophy as to how you want to grow as a community or not grow.

Mayor Mayer: Thank you.

Mr. Schneider: We don't have a lot of room to grow.

Ms. Skoda: Yeah, you don't have much room to grow, I will agree with you there, sir. I parked clear down there somewhere, so you don't have room to grow, I'm a testament to that.

Mayor Mayer: Ms. Holody.

Ms. Holody: Hi everyone. So, back to this September 5 letter, in the last paragraph it says, Peninsula is a community with a high degree of tourist traffic during the summer and on the weekends, this can post a challenge in operating a treatment system. The aeration plant necessary to treat the anticipated volume of wastewater from the Village operates best under constant flow. So, apparently that's the same problem with the aeration system as you're saying as with the MBR, so you're telling us that the aeration system is going to be struggling with constant flow.

Mr. Stoll: I think any system is going to be more difficult to operate with varying flows. It's just the nature of biological wastewater treatment.

Ms. Holody: Okay, but your letter is referring to the aeration plant will struggle, if it works best under constant flow, right – what this is referring to?

Mr. Stoll: Some are better than others at that, yes.

Ms. Holody: Okay, so then I'd like to ask Mr. Silcott, my understanding of the MBR is that was one of the benefits of it is it's best used in resort towns where you have large fluctuations, so can you explain that, please -- why the MBR would counter this paragraph.

Mr. Kaplan: I just have a point for, I guess for our media, to help with the question --

Ms. Holody: You can't interrupt my questions -- can he?

Mr. Kaplan: I did not interrupt your question. I just -- we invited guests to this meeting from the EPA, and the Health Department, and from Summit County Sewer to educate us on what their perspective is. Now, the question is going to a consultant who has been working with Ms. Holody on --

Ms. Holody: He's on the list of attendees, Mike. He's on the invitation list right here.

Mayor Mayer: Let our mediator answer this.

Ms. Holody: I mean, he's on the list of invitees.

Mr. Kaplan: You invited him, right?

Ms. Holody: No. He's on the list and we said it at the Council meeting.

Mr. Kaplan: I'll listen to the minutes, then. I just asked a question. If that's permissible, then that's fine.

Mediator: All I have to go on is this agenda right here, and Stantec Consultant Services is listed as an invited guest so I think it's a fair question.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. Fine, thank you.

Mr. Silcott: Yes, the MBR has a much greater flexibility for not only the fluctuations in the strength of the sewer flow and because of the footprint, and the ability to isolate tanks and for a smaller amount of flow we can run it through one tank instead of two so we could actually fluctuate with those lower flows much easier than we could with an extended aeration plant.

Ms. Holody: All right, so that clarified hopefully for all of us. The other note that -- I guess I just had a question about in this letter was that, Mr. Kaplan pointed it out, that it would be \$200 a month but one of the numbers that you add into that, you estimated a million dollars for design engineering and I just wondered where that came from, if you could help me understand that.

Mr. Stoll: If I remember correctly, it was on one of the documents the Village provided to us. And I don't remember which one but we remembered seeing it --

Ms. Holody: Because I'm pretty sure the design engineering and the PER in and the total cost of the system, the design engineering estimates were embedded in

that number so there would be no additional to it and that's kind of the budget numbers we've all been working off so if there's a question about that, I guess we could get more of that information to you so I think that is probably a little bit incorrect. So this is a question for you as well, so a little bit of background, I believe that as we were considering this through the Wastewater Advisory Committee and through Planning, we weren't considering everybody who is compliant or not compliant today, it was how the Village is going to be in ten years -- five years, ten years, and how we want to grow. So even though I totally understand that NPDES permits are legal and on-lot systems are legal, will the Village continue and have 125 for the Health Department to monitor on individual lots and will we have multiple packaged plants in the Village. Because, if I understand right, for business, if we wanted another restaurant or if we wanted to have more controlled economic development, we would anticipate there would be more packaged plants in the Village, correct? Is that the answer for, like, a restaurant at the other corner or whatever we decide we want to have? Can you have an underground hidden system or why do we have packaged plants, I guess is my question. Why are they the answer, these open-air packaged plants that we have two of now?

Mr. Stoll: Because you don't have sanitary sewers.

Ms. Holody: So that would be the option for businesses in the future, that they would have the same type of system to operate if they were of similar size, I guess, in flow.

Mr. Stoll: Yeah, basically, and it's what the Health Department eluded to, sanitary sewers are the ultimate answer. They would allow for growth, they would allow for development. The businesses in this community are very limited based on small lot sizes, poor soils. The businesses that have wastewater treatment plants right now, it's very unlikely they would be allowed to expand and make those treatment plants bigger.

Ms. Holody: Okay, very good. Thank you. So, do I still have time?

Mr. Kaplan: You have one more minute given my interjection.

Ms. Holody: We're going to go around and keep going so I'll let Chris go.

Mr. Weigand: Okay, I have a couple questions for you. Mr. Weant, if the County designs, builds, and or operates our sewer system, does the Village have full control of how many and what type of customers the system accommodates now and in the future?

Mr. Weant: Sure. We've done this repeatedly with cities and townships and villages in the County. It starts with the definition of the service area, the future service area, current plus future service area, that determines the size of the sewer and determines if it requires a plant and that plant also is compared to whether the stream is in compliance or not because there's only so much loading or discharge into the stream but the short answer is yes. New Franklin is a prime example. We sat down and planned the entire area of New Franklin into 15

different contracts and the priority or order of those 15 contracts was 100 percent determined by the City of New Franklin.

Mr. Weigand: And as far as rates go, and things like that, do we have any say in that, as a Village?

Mr. Weant: No. Our rates are set by County ordinance. We only have two rates across the entire County: if you receive public water through a water meter it gets billed the same rate; if you don't have water, everyone gets billed on the same rate as the flat side that is a blend, if you will, of all the different costs throughout the County. Right now we have six treatment plants left, we have 200 pump stations, and 1,000 miles of sewer, whatever it takes to maintain that infrastructure goes into a rate model and determines what the single rate is going to be, regardless of the cost to each substation, a single rate that covers all of the expense side and relates to the revenue that must be generated in order to support the ongoing maintenance and capital investment in the property and infrastructure. Last time we raised the rates was 2011. We discounted flat rates two years ago by ten percent. We do have significant upward pressure on our rates generated by the flow we send to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for treatment and the flow we send to the City of Akron. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is under a 3.3 billion dollar consent order, City of Akron is 1.4 billion dollars. That is nothing more than a cost that goes into a model in order to what we call the Cost of Service. The Cost of Service is paid by – it's spread across 51,000 customers roughly.

Mr. Weigand: As an aside, if you did do sewers in this community, would we put meters on everybody to just do flow or do you -- how would you balance it?

Mr. Weant: Now it's based on household size tied back to the Census and household size in Summit County has been decreasing instead of increasing. What we're going to move to, we have about 9,000 flat rate customers, well customers, and about 41 to 42,000 meter customers – what we will be doing, probably in the next rate model, is taking the average water usage across those 49,000 customers and that would set the average usage for a flat rate per capita. All I ever hear from, is a single individual living in a house paying flat rates is equal to someone with 14 acres and their house is on well. So, I think if we take the average of our 49,000 customers getting city water, that's going to reflect all the demographics in that average, kind of what we base future flat rate on. Next rate model is probably not until, if we don't get it done in '19, it'll probably be '20.

Mr. Weigand: Tonia, question for you and Donna. If all the residents are on individual systems, NPDES units or traditional septic systems or things like that, does the Village play any role in that, if the Health Department or EPA want to chime in, if we do a do-nothing-plan, we as a Village really don't play a role in it, is it between you and individual property owner whether they're a resident or business or organization.

Ms. Burford: Unless we have a significant nuisance. If it's established.

Mr. Weigand: And then what happens? What role does the Village play at that point?

Ms. Burford: Then I think we would be duty bound to act and I think that's where we would get into the findings and orders and things like that. The Village would have a role then to respond.

Mr. Weigand: Otherwise, if an individual property owner has an issue with their septic system, that's between them and the County or them and the Ohio EPA, correct?

Ms. Skoda: That's how it is right now.

Mr. Weigand: My question to everyone – the reason I ask is I have heard people say why don't we do this and I would like to know what the answer would be is, if we vote to have sewers or not have sewers or if we vote on anything related to this topic as a community, does that somehow magically get us a piece of paper from the EPA or the Health Department or Summit County that says, okay we're off the hook type of thing or –

Mr. Weant: If we are the sewer provider and we own the sewer, then you're off the hook. I'm on the hook at that point. So anything that occurs from that point of ownership forward, Dee and I will be talking a lot, and any fines that would be issued would be to me as opposed to you.

Mr. Weigand: Similarly, if the Village operated its own system, built its own system, it would be between the Village and the Ohio EPA, correct?

Mr. Weant: It follows ownership.

Mr. Weigand: Yeah. But if it's individuals owning it, we can't --

Mr. Weant: I don't want to speak for the Health Department, but the way that loop gets closed is if you have sporadic septic failures here and there, that's the individual and the Health Department. If you have an entire group or subdivision that fails or is in failing condition, that potentially finds its way to the Village.

Mr. Weigand: That's it for my questions for right now.

Mayor Mayer: Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Schneider: I just wonder if the County is really interested in putting in a sewer system in the Village or whatever we requested, would they -- would you want to do it or not?

Mr. Weant: I would say the answer to that at this point is no and the reason I would say no is I've been a part of prior conversations in which we talked about who does it, and some of the advantages and disadvantages is the fact that the Village now has Stantec under contract and I'm not in control of that contract and I would say I'm out of the game at this point.

Mr. Schneider: So you and Stantec haven't talked --

Mr. Weant: No, we've talked and you have Stantec under contract, I do not. I can't make decisions that's going to impact your contract, whereas if it were my contract and I wanted to direct Stantec in a different direction, more time or

evaluation or something like that, that's my cost and I'm paying for that and I'm making that decision and at that point in time if it's not supported, I don't feel that I can correctly influence those decisions since you have a binding contract between you and Stantec. I will tell you, there's an ongoing conversation every time I meet with whoever on Council about, will the County accept ownership at the end of the project. That in itself is problematic because you've stepped in and created a rate structure in which you're collecting money from residents that doesn't match my rate structure, doesn't match my County ordinance. We have a certain procedure we go through when we are requested to take over a privately owned or municipally owned system. We would come in and there's a conversation between Stantec and me about, what are your construction standards or your design standards, we take over the system and once again, if I want to do all that I would just as soon be on the front end. The only thing that would affect that would be if the Village might have availability of grant funding due to their size or economics that I wouldn't have but, and I've talked to numerous people, once the engineering contract is in place and you're directing how to design the plant and you're making the decisions and I'm not, then that's why I say I don't have any interest.

Mr. Schneider: There would be no way you two could work together and help us with the system so we can get money?

Mr. Weant: Here's my concern over that. As soon as I make a decision that impacts his contract that drives up the cost of the contract, I'll be charged or accused of undermining the contract, conspiracy theory will take over and I am the bad guy. I don't see anybody wanting that at this point in time.

Mr. Schneider: Okay.

Mr. Weant: It's just very, very thin ice. I mean, he can ask my opinion and I'll give my opinion but that's not going to be a directive to change what he's doing or spend more time on a particular item in the contract. He has our construction standards so he knows how we build infrastructure.

Mr. Schneider: All right, thank you. If we get all these addresses, can we figure you'll be looking at all these septic systems because we can't go around, as far as I understand – this so-and-so -- the Village can't do that but can we get you guys to check them? We can't turn people in.

Mr. Burford: There are several buckets of people. So you have some people who are already under our operation permit so they may already gotten their inspections and they're good.

Mr. Schneider: Yeah, I know.

Mr. Burford: And then you have these other people who recently installed a system so they're still under contract for that system and it's pretty unlikely they're creating the nuisances. And then we have this third bucket of sort of unknowns. And if we weren't there when the system was put in the ground in 1956, it's really difficult for us to know sometimes, even if I have an inspector out in the field, ya know, what's going on without installing things like an inspection

port and maybe some of you have been ordered to do that in the past. We can do it but it does get messy and it takes a long time.

Mr. Schneider: Yeah because I've been here forever and some of these systems have been here before me and they all run in the storm sewers and the river and that's why we need all the help we can get to correct these.

Ms. Burford: If we find nuisances, we order new systems to be replaced so that has to be weighed as well.

Mr. Schneider: Okay.

Ms. Burford: So if you're in that district, for every system we install is sort of a step away from sewers because if we look at it that way, I mean, if someone has already made a \$10,000 investment into their property for a brand new septic system why would they want to support a centralized sewer project ever. So you have to think of those elements as you're planning. We are willing to work with you as a partner but we need to know what direction you're trying to go.

Mr. Schneider: If we can find out before, and I know we're running out of time, and we find out there's more, let us know. We used to get a list of what was pumped or whatever –

Mayor Mayer: Thank you. Mr. Kaplan.

Mr. Kaplan: Hello again. Let me follow up on a couple of things. And, again, I appreciate all the answers and all the information. Mr. Weant, you just completed and entered into a contract with the Village of Clinton –

Mr. Weant: Yes.

Mr. Kaplan: -- and you are going to be installing down there. The Beacon Journal reported there were 75 failing systems there, is that about right?

Mr. Weant: Or more.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. And as Ms. Burford mentioned if you have a whole nest, that's what you have in Clinton, several failing systems.

Mr. Weant: Yes, the Health Department has information on groupings of failing septic systems and they call them hot spots. They're embedded in the plan as part of the area we're working.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. And you and Clinton didn't always agree. You went through a long period of hating each other

Mr. Weant: That's pretty accurate.

Mr. Kaplan: But at the end of the day, you ventured into a deal.

Mr. Weant: Yes.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. The current rate that hasn't changed since 2011 for a home system in Summit County is how many dollars a month?

Mr. Weant: \$56.03.

Mr. Kaplan: \$56.03. So, if Stantec wasn't in the picture and we came to you and said, design it and build it and operate it, would you charge us for the engineering?

Mr. Weant: Probably not.

Mr. Kaplan: Probably not.

Mr. Weant: Yes.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. Would you be interested in building it and operating it for us?

Mr. Weant: Well, if we built it, we would have to operate it. We'd be the owner. We must maintain it and operate it properly and if it wears out, we have to replace it.

Mr. Kaplan: So, I understand that you don't want – you want to step away because someone else is designing the system and then you're not in control and the moment you start telling them how to do it, that drives costs and everything else. So, it's just not good business.

Mr. Weant: That's correct.

Mr. Kaplan: So, if it's yours, you're in and if it's not going to be yours, you're out.

Mr. Weant: That is correct.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Stoll, you are concerned with the businesses and the business waste water and also, what we call semi-public so it's not just a for-profit business but if I had, like, a six or seven-family home, that would be yours as well?

Mr. Stoll: Yes.

Mr. Kaplan: So we shortcutted by saying the businesses. It's not exactly –

Mr. Stoll: Yeah, churches and schools.

Mr. Kaplan: Churches, schools, and this building. If those businesses – I think you said to a question a few minutes ago, for a business, they have a choice between a packaged plant, which is basically what they kind of have right now, and probably not what they will be able to install, or a central sewer system.

Mr. Stoll: There can be other options. If the lot size was large enough, which most of them in this community are not, there are on-site dissipation systems we have issued that are like holding tanks allowing as a temporary measure until this issue is resolved so there are a few businesses that are pursuing that. But

basically, with a small lot, businesses are looking to a discharge wastewater treatment plant with a NPDES permit or tying into a central collection system.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. Health Department folks, circling back to, again when you were saying working with the Village and now planning that if we don't want to have considerable growth going forward that you talked about Bath's decision and that's up to the community and I thank you for respecting that. If the Village were to identify in one way or another, either through you or independently, that Mrs. Smith needs a new system, could you work with us and can we help with the financing of that in order to help Mrs. Smith and get that done?

Ms. Burford: That wouldn't be our decision. That's not our role. Our role is to issue a permit and make sure it is done correctly. We don't do the financing portion of it.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay. So you don't look at the --

Ms. Burford: There is some money from the County called the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund that is income dependent so you have to be a certain percentage of poverty to be involved in that.

Ms. Skoda: It's graduated so you might be able to get 80 percent, 70 percent, 50 percent of our system paid. Now it's not an all-or-nothing deal.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you. We met with you --

Mayor Mayer: Wait --

Mr. Kaplan: Am I done? Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Matusz: Back to me. Mr. Weant, if Stantec wasn't in the picture you would be interested in doing the system if the Village came to you, planning and design?

Mr. Weant: I think all of Council knows this but this particular project has a lot of history with our agency dating back to 2003. There was a report done in 2003 where the consultant was directed to not consider a wastewater treatment plant solution so they looked at gravity sewers and they looked at pump stations and lift stations. I don't know if Carol paid for that. Then in 2006 or '07 or '08, I paid another \$25,000 to have that -- really at the request of the late Russ Pry -- he was focused on the National Park, he knew the tourism would be growing for the National Park and he knew it was a burden on the Village so the idea was hatched that, can the County provide sewers to the Village because the Village was strapped for cash. And that's where I got involved. So we paid to update that report and told the consultant at that point in time to consider a wastewater treatment plant solution and they came back with a life cycle analysis between the treatment plant solution and a pump station solution. The pump station solution would pump up Quick Road into an existing sewer we own in front of the high school. That was a very expensive solution with five pump stations, was energy extensive and a pump station does not have the life a treatment plant does. We decided to pursue the wastewater treatment plant option, came back

and presented that and there was a sentiment at that time by Council that they did not want the County involved and that the Village was going to do it on their own. As I told my wife, I was invited to leave at that point and I did, I followed the order. But the idea has always been, and the only reason I have stayed involved, was to try to sewer the Village in order to promote growth and support tourism and provide a clean water stream that goes to the National Park. And you guys formed your committee and went out and evaluated your options and you hired an engineer and came back with a recommendation that the preferred solution absolutely was a wastewater treatment plant. So I haven't been involved since the last updated plan and we kind of ended where we did. We would've ended up in the same position in terms of we would likely go through the recommendations that a plant was the preferred solution and we probably would've ended up at an MBR because of the small footprint of that plan because there wasn't a lot of available land in the Village at the time. In order to cite some of these other solutions, some of them require slightly bigger footprint and real estate is at a premium and I believe – well, I have information that says the stream you're discharging to is impartial to compliance so now all of the sudden your limits from discharging to that stream, it's tired. So you have to invest in a little more into whatever solution you pick to produce cleaner water than I might have to produce if I'm discharging to the Tuscarawas River. So, you know, we would've ended up in the same place and we threw a number at it at the time. Mike and I had a conversation about the number and it's like any other piece of money, it's tied to time and value. If you go four years ago it was cheaper than it is now. We never really got past that point because then the Sewer Committee started evaluating other options and went through what everybody bites on first which is a solution that's cheap to put in and it wasn't the same concerns being voiced that we had, energy intensive and higher costs with probably shorter life, but it does have its place. So anyway, I didn't really get back in the picture until recently.

Mr. Kaplan: Okay.

Mr. Weant: And Mike had read the article about Clinton and they were the same way. They were going to do the sewers on their own and they were going to go and get grant money and they were going to fund it and it has come full circle and executed it and what we've never gotten to here that we've done in the last two assessment projects, one in Springfield and one in Clinton, is the discussion about affordability and do we have the financial – does the County have the financial resources to buy down the assessment. So in your approach by building in at a higher rate and collecting on the front end does not match our methodology. We divide the user fee we talked about, \$56.03 a month, from the construction fee so whatever that final construction cost is, certified to the property taxes, typically over a 20-year period and we just collect it off the property taxes. So we front end all that cash to build it and put it into service and make it available and then we assess that cost onto the property tax. You're billing it up front, as I understand it which we've not done before and I haven't looked that closely. So it started at the National Park, it started with, the whole scope of things, 150 to 200 customers is not a huge increase in growth for us, it's an expensive solution but we have the ability to spread those costs across our

entire customer base. Right or wrong, our philosophy is everybody pays. So somebody in Green is paying for an improvement in Peninsula, somebody in Peninsula is paying for an improvement in Macedonia. Except for the construction, the construction cost is separated and is assessed directly to the property owners specific to that project. So let's say it's a six and a half million dollar project and let's say there's no funding, that six and a half million would be certified to property tax and be paid for by those. We don't spread that across the County but we do spread the operation maintenance across the County. On my side of the fence, it came to a halt when the Village started pursuing other solutions and the fact that they were going to build their own sewer system.

Mr. Kaplan: And that's one of the biggest differences. If we build it, we own it and if you build it, you own it and pay for everything up front and do the billing.

Mayor Mayer: Time.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you.

Ms. Booth: We still pay for everything, we pay for the construction costs.

Mr. Weant: You pay 100 percent of construction, you don't pay 100 percent of operation and maintenance.

Ms. Booth: I feel like in the meetings that we've had, we've had a very difficult time getting to a bottom-line price from the County.

Mr. Weant: I don't know a price. I don't answer for the numbers.

Ms. Booth: We didn't agree to go with the County because we never got a price from the County.

Mr. Weant: The estimate from the engineering firm, 6.5 million dollars, I'll tell you that number is not the right number. It will not be 6.5 million at the end of the project.

Ms. Booth: They sent out a number for us. They gave us something to work with. I feel like –

Mr. Weant: I gave my number a long time ago.

Ms. Booth: Well, what about the committee? You didn't give the committee a number.

Mr. Weant: It's a 50,000-foot view. Everywhere I go, everyone wants to know – that's the first question and it's a legit question, how much is it going to cost me? I have no design in front of me, I don't know what the soils are out in the area, I don't know the details of the project. To put a number on it at this point in time – I believe the number I gave at that point in time was 7.2 or about 8 million by the time we got there. That is based on an approach, where you take the size of the service area, how much flow are you going to generate, size of plant to accommodate that flow, so let's just say it's 500,000 gallons a day plant, taking a past typical cost for a 500,000-gallon plant, applying that cost and coming up with

a tentative assessment. You had zero details at that point in time so if I'm hesitant to give you a number, a price on day one, those are the reasons, because it's going to change.

Ms. Booth: But we have to agree to go with you to get to those prices –

Mr. Weant: That's correct.

Ms. Booth: It's a leap of faith on our part.

Mr. Weant: You guys made a choice and you're going to own the system.

Ms. Booth: Okay. And I feel also, you told us, long before we entered into the contract with Stantec, that you really were not all that interested in working with us. You didn't want to do it.

Mr. Weant: That's not true. I don't believe I have ever said I'm not interested. I said it was not as attractive as a large project with more customers but I never said –

Ms. Booth: You said we were ineligible to apply for grants or get any non-traditional funding assistance if we went with the County. I think you pointed those things out to us.

Mr. Weant: We have certain limitations in terms of money. If I still wasn't interested, I wouldn't have given another \$25,000 for a preliminary engineering report. I don't know how I can keep giving money and you come to the conclusion that I'm still not interested in it and that's exactly what happened. I was approached well after the fact after the first \$25,000 to give you – the Village another \$25,000 for a preliminary engineering report that likely is not going to end in a decision and you wouldn't owe the County anything. So now, and this is from the goodness in my heart, you guys were already pursuing another solution, so if I wasn't interested in staying involved, why would I just give away \$25,000 that everybody else in the County has to pay for? It doesn't make any sense.

Ms. Booth: Since we don't have water, we can't meter our water, would the County be using the EPA EDU standards?

Mr. Weant: That's what we use right now. We believe that's overstated actually. And the reason that's overstated is because people are buying water-saving devices like commodes and so forth and there's many people now conserving water so when I say we're going to use the average water usage across 41,000 customers, that to me seemed more representative of water usage. From a planning perspective, when you size a pipe or you size a plant you use flow numbers.

Mr. Bryan: Mary, are you asking how the businesses will be charged or are you –

Ms. Booth: No, I'm asking what rate each house will be charged at.

Mr. Weant: \$56.03 a month.

Audience member: How many gallons of water per day, for instance.

Mayor Mayer: I'm sorry, there's no community involvement.

Ms. Holody: She means the EDU multiplier, so if you're a duplex, it would be two times the \$56.03 – is that right, Mary? Are you talking about the EDU multiplier?

Ms. Booth: Yes.

Mr. Weant: So if you have a single residential home, considered one EDU, a Winking Lizard is calculated in terms of number of seats, parking spaces, whether they have a kitchen or not, and you'll eventually come up with a total discharge flow off that site. Then you divide it by the EDU, which is 400 gallons, and you come up with some equivalent EDU. So, your house might be one, Winking Lizard might be ten. Winking Lizard if using that much capacity in the pipe ten times you, pays ten times the \$56.03 a month. That's the logical theory behind the pricing.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. Thank you. So, on that line, if I'm a resident paying \$56.03, the Winking Lizard would be paying \$560.30. So, okay, that's not very encouraging for our businesses in the Village to have that –

Mr. Weant: I mean, it's really based on fair-share.

Mayor Mayer: Yeah.

Mr. Weant: If you're using more of the pipe, if you're discharging more than I'm using, I should pay for that used capacity in the pipe. If I flip that and say, I'm coming in free at one EDU but I'm filling up the pipe as a business, then it's really fair-share.

Mayor Mayer: When you say you're going to share the cost of the contract and I don't mean – if you don't want to answer this because you're not doing the job, you declined – but again, you're dividing up that last number and you're going to make everybody pay that assessed number, is my number different from the Winking Lizard?

Mr. Weant: Yes.

Mayor Mayer: Why? If one building is one building –

Mr. Weant: Because – there's a couple ways of looking at it. It depends on your assessment methodology. If you just look at it from a business perspective, they have more opportunity to generate money by increasing the size of their building than you do by increasing the size of your house. So when you do the distribution of that and construction costs you can use a variety of factors, there is numerous ways to do an assessment. One of them happens to be zoning, one can be land usage. So if your zoning is different – in theory, if you give public sewers you're going to benefit more off selling your land by zoning if it's a residential usage.

Mayor Mayer: But if you're combining the Winking Lizard would pay more – I hate to keep using them but they're a good example – is that going to drop my

cost a little bit because if you're going to charge them \$50, you're only going to charge me \$5.

Mr. Weant: I mean, if we just straight-lined it, here's the cost and here's the number of people using whether it's residential or commercial, yeah your amount is going to go up as opposed to if it's a weighted distribution and they have the opportunity to expand and make money and benefit from their property. If they just paid the same, to me that's not fair. They have a greater benefit from the sanitary sewer than you do. If you just straight-lined it – that's one of the conversations that occurs every time we do one of these projects with what assessment methodology is the most equitable. Because a lot of people say, well just bill on front footage, that's a method. I have a flag line and I've got 30 feet in frontage on the road from the driveway and I got 30 acres in the back and it's split up, I'm just paying for that little frontage from an assessment methodology. And if it's reverse, if it's a great big frontage but the lots not very deep you're going to pay more. That is one of the critical conversations that occurs with the design engineer and the entity in terms of what assessment methodology best fits the area. And really all you're doing is your assessment methodology has to be fair so it can hold up in court if challenged, so that's where it comes in.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. One other question before I go to the Health Department and the EPA. We sit her and talk about all these numbers, if we had to put in a plant, I heard early on, I've been hearing we don't have to put in a plant – that is not – right now, I believe this plant is being forced upon the Village but I would still like to move forward and make sure we are not contaminating the streams and down the river – you would still be willing to work with us, come up with designs or plans or programs or evaluations to help us do that.

Ms. Burford: Yes, of course.

Mayor Mayer: If the residents of this Village would like to stay in control of their property and what they have on their property, we can help them with keeping septic systems – I know the new systems are a lot better than the old ones, I still have – if I say it's 25 years old, I think that's still new. But does that match the life expectancy based on the Health Department. I will be putting in a fiberglass tank which I think is better than the tanks I have now, the concrete tanks. So if everybody keeps, moving forward, putting in better systems we are going to be doing better than the old concrete tanks or some homes maybe we don't know what they have.

Ms. Burford: Right. There are upgrades that need to be made, that's for sure but it's a mix. We're on a main street with a mix of businesses and homes so we do have that mixed bag with the semi-publics going into the same outfalls as residents so it's difficult sometimes to figure out where the issues lie. Dee is working with several operators in Peninsula to try to get their systems under control. It's a big decision. Everyone is in the same culvert as well.

Mayor Mayer: Thank you. Ms. Holody.

Ms. Holody: So, correct me if I'm wrong but didn't I read somewhere that you're going to roll out the new EPA standards for the State, did they make a statement that it's estimated that 80 percent of the on-lot systems in Ohio are not maintained appropriately. Isn't that on the website? It's a pretty big number but I thought that was – I might be wrong.

Ms. Burford: I had not read it was 80 percent.

Ms. Holody: It was larger than I thought.

Ms. Burford: Our new rules that went into effect in 2015 were designed to provide an ongoing solution, an ultimate solution, I guess, for operation and maintenance of systems because a lot of times, people will install a system and then they flush the toilet, they run the water and they don't even think about where it goes so that's why it's called the Operation Maintenance Permit because of what happens after the installation of the system to maintain the life of it. So if you have good operation maintenance on a lot of types of systems, you'll get a lot more years out of them. Having said that, a lot of systems across the County and in Peninsula.

Ms. Holody: But it's still left up to the individual to make sure they continue to regularly do everything.

Ms. Burford: That's correct.

Ms. Holody: Thank you. Back to the County, sorry Mike. So, I think a lot of us were working under the impression that we weren't writing the County off. In our methodology of moving forward with the committee, which was a formal committee under the Planning Commission, was we wanted to get to a point to decide what type of system that we thought was right based on our criteria, okay, so that's how the MBR kind of fit into that when we assessed it. In thinking that once we decide what type of system we wanted and where we wanted to place it, where we thought it would fit right, one of the things with the MBR was the small footprint so I guess we always thought that the County at some point, once we did all this and went out to look for grant money which I think you suggested to us that we do, that we would try to get our own grant money so we are three quarters of the way through the design engineering right now. We are within a few weeks of submitting to the EPA, the NPDES permit and report, which if I understand right, puts us in a deep conversation with the EPA at that point. Now we're serious, now the Village is really talking about doing it. The result of that is we want to apply for grant money to help break down. Now, there are very few, as you know, but we do feel like we have a pretty good shot getting this OPWC funding, \$750,000. Okay, so, let's say we go through that mechanism and we get that and we decide okay, heck with this, we're not going to operate our own plant, we want to get the County involved. If you had to redo the design engineering at that point, right? So, you are going to fund that –

Mr. Weant: No.

Ms. Holody: You wouldn't do it? Once it's already done, you would not – let me finish my thought here – 75 percent of the cost has to do with the gravity system. Are you okay with the gravity collection system?

Mr. Weant: Going to the plant --

Ms. Holody: No, I'm just talking about the gravity collection system. Are you okay with the gravity collection system that we've selected as opposed to what Clinton is using, the pressure system?

Mr. Weant: Just from a theoretical standpoint, that gravity system is the cheapest you can build.

Ms. Holody: Well, I understand – I seem to think it's more expensive to build but it will last longer and it's less to maintain. So, if 75 percent of the cost is the collection system and I would be surprised if you would have to reengineer all of that if we're already designing it purposely to include your specifications –

Mr. Weant: I'm not talking about reengineering, I'm talking about what our process typically is, let's just use this as an example. You made a decision to engage a design consultant to design a system.

Ms. Holody: Okay.

Mr. Weant: We are not involved at all in the design of that system. So, our process is when you build it, when you finish it, and you ask us to take ownership of that system, there is a process we go through in which you would provide logs so we can go look at the sewers and you would provide your testing results to see that you tested and do air testing and those types of things and theoretically it's a brand new system so there should be no problems with the system whatsoever. At that point in time, after reviewing that kind of data on the kind of system that was built we would make a decision as to whether we would take ownership of the system or not. We wouldn't redesign anything. You guys are making the decisions on design.

Ms. Holody: Okay, so you wouldn't be interested when we decide to go out for bid -- so the County would not --

Mr. Weant: For a construction bid?

Ms. Holody: Yes, so the County would not want to give us a bid for construction and operation of the plant?

Mr. Weant: No. We're not in the construction business and we don't bid on contracts. We don't even have a mechanism in place in which to compete with outside private firms for the construction of sewer system.

Ms. Holody: Okay. So, one more question. Do I have time?

Mayor Mayer: One more question.

Ms. Holody: Okay. So, you indicated in an email to the Mayor that the MBR is likely the most feasible system for the discharge requirements into the Cuyahoga

River and I think I heard you say earlier, that you think the MBR is where you would have ended up.

Mr. Weant: Yes.

Ms. Holody: So, has the County – do you design MBRs? I don't think this is actually you would be using, you would be hiring another expert to design MBRs, correct?

Mr. Weant: We hire a design consultants to design the plant and we have engineers who reviews that set of plans through the entire process, typically 30, 60, 90 percent of the design. They then make comments based on our standards, our design construction standards as to what needs to be in that design. All the way down to motors and pumps, systems get installed, the solution for the scale, the wireless telemetry, the modem we use, that is our review process that is built in to that set of plans. Once those comments are received, the design consultant makes the changes to the set of plans and those plans meet our standards. And we're okay with the review we generate a construction bid off those sets of plans, based off what's in those plans and put it out on the market for bid. We've already made all those decisions in the design process.

Ms. Holody: So, you're original thoughts were 7.2 million and –

Mayor Mayer: Your time is done.

Ms. Holody: Oh, am I done? Okay, that's fine.

Mayor Mayer: We're going to run out of time, if the audience doesn't mind, we have two more Council members –

Mr. Kaplan: Why don't we just finish the round.

Mayor Mayer: -- two more Council members, we won't run over ten minutes.

Mr. Weigand: I don't really have any more questions, honestly you all asked what I had on my list. Mike, let's stick with the County thing, so, we can't really get definitive, or really ballpark or wild-ass guess numbers for what a system would cost if we went with the County?

Mr. Weant: It would be the same process you're in. You have no idea until you engage your consultant, based on his design, and then come up with an engineering estimate. That would be exactly the process we would go through. Without going through that process? I've already given a wild-ass guess and I don't know if that number is good or not good because somewhere in the process of exactly what you're going to do right now and exactly what you've decided and the anticipated cost of what it's going to be your sewer solution would have been our process. Nobody would give you a number prior to the design or you'll get some general number just trying to quantify, is this 7 million, 10 million, 15 million, how much – what do you think, what's the ballpark. So our approach to generate a number is no different than what you're going through to generate your own numbers.

Mr. Weigand: Even if we gave you all the information we have to date from what Stantec has done, you couldn't do a number off of that, ballpark number off of that?

Mr. Weant: I guess I could, my point is we haven't seen the detailed plans, we don't want to see the detailed plans, really. Whatever the plans are to date, we'd go through it, review it, we would mark it up, I wouldn't expect significant changes, so I'll tell you as you approach 100 percent of the design, the estimate will change. It gets more and more refined as you move forward.

Mr. Weigand: When it comes to funding, I guess what I'm saying is basically – just to make sure I'm thinking this through correctly, if we go out on our own, obviously with the advantage because we as a village or community can apply for grants and low-interest loans and things like that –

Mr. Weant: I can apply for those things.

Mr. Weigand: Well, the grants like the Army Corps of Engineers, or the OPWC, those are ones the County can't and that does affect our bottom line, correct?

Mr. Weant: Sure.

Mr. Weigand: So, the County can't go for grants but there's matching County money or something like that –

Mr. Weant: I mean, the difference is we front-end all the costs so we don't have to build a reserve, we don't have to wait on funding, I mean, we apply for funding. We go through much of the same process everybody else goes through. Right now the cost for me is 2.14 percent, that's the cheapest rate I can get. And this would be a prime project to submit as a project nomination for WPCLF. To go beyond that, with median household income in the Village, the OPWC controls that at that level, get money for new sewers, replacing old sewers, not getting new sewers. Army Corps of Engineers, I don't know the details on that whether we can – I guess that's driven by village size, so I probably could not apply for that as the owner of the sanitary sewer. The difference is we would probably go pay-as-you-go or finance the project on the front-end. So no one sees an assessment until probably a year following final construction. So the sewer system is in service and in place, people are provided a service and then we go through the certification process with the fiscal office in which we replace that amount on the property taxes typically in the following year upon completion of construction.

Mr. Weigand: Do you do anything for people who have existing septic systems?

Mr. Weant: This always comes up, this is always a question. The most we have done is give them a five-year grace period.

Audience member: And that's policy to --

Mayor Mayer: I'm sorry, I'm sorry. We're keeping it mostly Council.

Mr. Weigand: From a residential NPDES permit, is the EPA involved in that at all?

Mr. Stoll: It's our permit but the Health Department helps the homeowner submit the letter of intent and coverage under that.

Mr. Weigand: So if something's wrong with it or if they're coming after me or I'm going back and forth, I go to them. But if I'm a business, I go through you guys.

Mr. Stoll: Yes.

Ms. Buford: Now, we do the inspections. Summit County Public Health holds contracts with the OEPA. We are here routinely doing inspections but for enforcement we turn everything over to the OEPA.

Mr. Weigand: Who inspects the business ones, does the EPA?

Ms. Buford: No, we do the contract.

Mr. Weigand: For residents and business.

Ms. Buford: Correct.

Mr. Weigand: Are all businesses ones NPDES permits?

Mr. Stoll: Yes.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. Dan?

Mr. Schneider: I think I got my information. I'd just like to work with the Health Department to see where we stand with these septic systems in town. I mean, we got more that we don't know about and I think if we work with them with the addresses and that stuff, we're going to find out what we really need because I think that we're going to find out we have more systems because a lot -- if we can't grow in this town because as far as the district because houses are set on one acre or less and it's harder to get a septic system otherwise --

Ms. Buford: It is. You also do not have centralized water so everyone has to get a well and if you have those considerations and distance requirements from NPDES so the smaller and smaller we get, someone need to replace a well and those things on their property so they don't end up with a holding tank.

Mr. Schneider: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you to everyone.

Mayor Mayer: Our solicitor has asked to speak.

Mr. Bryan: If I could just have a follow-up with Mr. Weant. I don't remember when it was last year, in June or somewhere around there, Mayor was there, Ms. Booth, Ms. Holody, and Mr. Silcott were there and we discussed a lot of the ground we covered here today about the Village pursuing grants and how a design engineer would help and your suggestion that if we were interested in a

future collaboration with the County to design future systems and we talked about the review process of 30, 60, 90, 100 percent, and in fact, Stantec's contract does require that. Maybe there was a communication breakdown, it didn't seem like you were aware of that but they are required to do that. Is that something, at this point, that you're not interested in, if there is a possibility if that is what Council wanted for future collaboration? I understand your concern about dictating other requirements and not being privy of the Stantec contract and not being in a position to tell them what to do. If that's something Village Council wanted to do, and direct Stantec to do, is that something you --

Mr. Weant: My only concern is I don't own the contract and what happened if I impact the contract.

Mr. Bryan: Right.

Mr. Weant: That's my only concern.

Mr. Bryan: Okay. But the contract does require that now so they're already obligated --

Mr. Weant: That is very typical of design contracts --

Mr. Bryan: And you would be doing that with whoever got the bid for the design engineering, that would be part of your process.

Mr. Weant: Yeah, the difference is I would own that engineering contract. It doesn't do me much good to do a cursory review to make recommendations to do it this way or do it that way, particularly if there is still some idea the County owns the system at the end of the project. I mean, we're going to build it to our standards, that's what they're there for. And to do a cursory review with our opinion doesn't do anybody any good, particularly if it drives up your cost or takes up my resources to review so it just seems to me to be the extra effort at reviewing the design process when I really have no jurisdiction or say to make changes.

Mr. Bryan: Right. But if you had the knowledge that the Village was following through on your recommendations and had confidence and if the Village decided to make a commitment to go forward with the County, would you feel comfortable?

Mr. Weant: I don't know how to get away from that.

Mayor Mayer: Can I make something clear?

Mr. Weant: Sure.

Mayor Mayer: Were you ever considered for the Peninsula project? When Peninsula did their reviews, when we had our review committee, when we were looking at engineers, were you ever really --

Mr. Weant: No.

Mayor Mayer: Okay. Thank you, I think that's all we have time for today.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you everybody.

Ms. Holody: Did any of you want to make a statement – we asked all the questions, I didn't know if any of you wanted to say anything in closing.

Mr. Kaplan: Not unless you want to go another two hours.

Ms. Holody: No, I was just saying –

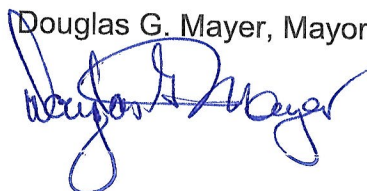
Mr. Kaplan: Thank you all for coming.

Ms. Holody: All right.

A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Matusz. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm

Respectfully submitted:

Douglas G. Mayer, Mayor Date
 4-22-2019

Deborah Wordell 
Fiscal Officer Date 04/19/19